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THE NEWS OF EUROPE.

RENEWED ATTACKS IN THE BRITISH PRESS UPON AMERICAN STATESMEN.

BEHRING SEA-BULGARIA-IRISH AND ENGLISH PARTY LEADERS-LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL MR. GLADSTONE-COAL PORTERS' UNION

THE DEATH OF GRANT, THE GEON'S FUNERAL. THY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.

London, Feb. 13 .- Mr. Blaine's letter withdraw ing his name as a candidate for the Presidency has been followed by an outburst of that animosity which his steadfast assertion of American rights has prevoked in some English breasts. Every rumor hostile to him or to the President is eagerly "The Times" and "The Standard"

dispute with each other for precedence in unmannerly comment. The English view is simply: This is the electoral period, and during the electoral period in America all public men are dishonest. It is not stated so boldly as that, but some such notion is at the bottom of all the innuendoes and insinuations which are so recklessly flung about,

We have again the suggestion that the Presi-"launched his fire-cating message," and his conduct is described on that theory as "grossly infringing the comity of nations and the rules of common honesty." Perhaps, however, Mr. Blaine knew of Chili's submission and concealed it from the President, "in order to entrap him into taking a ridiculous and discreditable step." If so, it was "a scandalous breach of faith." If, again. Mr. Blaine denounced the President's policy at a private dinner where diplomatists were present, what are we to think of a statesman having foreign affairs in his charge who, with such views, consents to remain responsible for and the mouth piece of that policy?" What, indeed? what are we to think of a journal which bases a censure of this kind on servants' tattle, and from behind the shelter of a bedge of its fires off all these calumnies on the most distinguished of living American statesmen?

Your announcement that Lord Salisbury had again been making trouble about Behring Sea, which was cabled to London, was contradicted in the House of Commons before it was made. Young Mr. Lowther, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, was happy on Wednesday to be able to inform the House that a complete agreement had been ar rived at between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States with regard to Behring This statement was not limited to arbitra-It covered the whole ground, or rather the whole sea. It has presumably the value which official contradictions usually have.

The Spanish Government has shown courage and firmness, and, in spite of threats, has exefour Anarchists who tried to sack The imaginative Dalziel sent us a sensational story of struggles on the scaffold, one Anarchist at least fighting half an hour against the civil and military forces of Spain. Of this, as of much other similar information, Dalziehas a monopoly. There have been threats of disturbance in various parts of Spain, but no disturbances worth mentioning. The Parisian Anarchists have indulged, as their habit is, in much

Not much more has been heard about negotiations between the Parnellites and Anti-Parnellites, unless it be that Mr. Redmond has made Healy's expalsion a condition of reunion. Mectings have been held all round, as a result of which it is computed that there are at least five The Anti-transellites are divided into McCarthyite, Dillonite, and Healyite sections. The Healy section consists of Mr. Healy, Mr. Dillon's friends tried to elect him chairman, but were beaten. Mr. McCarthy, whom nobody dreads, again becomes chairman. That is a compromise. Mr. Redmond leads his little band of ford the luxury of a quarrel or solit. The fifth party consists of Unionists, reckoned at about onethird of the people of Ireland, but so scattered as to be unable to act together, or to do more than poll in most beroughs or county divisions

The Liberal-Unionists duly held a meeting of Monday at Devonshire House and duly elected Mr. Chamberlain leader of the Liberal-Unionist party in the House of Commons. The Duke of Devonshire remains leader of the whole party for all purposes except those of debate in the ar sembly of which he is no leaver a member. Mr. Chamberlain in a speech accepting the appointment, announced himself as still an Advanced He explained, however, that many other Uionists were not less advanced than himself, and that for his own part he was willing to subordinate even such questions as Disestablish ment to the interests of the Union. When he appeared in the House in this new character of leader, our Irish friends thought it in good taste to receive him with jeers. Mr. Morley, whose sympathy with Irish methods grows closer and closer, could not refrain from reminding Chamberlain of his distinguished friend, Mr. Hurlbert. It was the only moment, says a spectator, when Mr. Chamberlain looked really augry. It may be worth noting that he still refers to Sir William Harcourt, who lately called him the Bazaine of Birmingham, as his right honorable friend, a name which Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Morley no longer bestow on each other.

Whether Messrs. O'Brien, Dillon Healy go about Ireland under police protection, and whether they have asked by Lord it is a question put Lords, and not Londonderry in the House of answered. Lord Cadogan would take no respon-Lord Salisbury said that he would not give information of that sort, which might be used to damage political opponents. The scruple is honorable to him, but Lord Londonderry has been Lord Leutenant of Ireland, and does not put his question without grounds. Tories less scrupu lous than Lord Salisbury allege in terms that all three of these patriots did solicit and did while In Ireland avail themselves of the services of the constabulary as a safeguard against violence. Whether they go in terror of the Parnellites we are not told, but we know how these Parnellite and Anti-Parnellite Christians love one another. They show it sometimes in the most touching way, as lately in Dublin, when Mr. O'Brien rebuked Mr. Healy for intemperate language.

Lord Randolph Churchill's relations with his constituents of Paddington are, if not strained. They have put to him a question which perhaps he might have resented They ask him whether he means to stand at the next election as a Conservative candidate, and whether, if so, he will support the Conserva-But Lord Randolph, instead of taking offence, answers coolly that he shall give the Tory party the same support which he has given it since he entered Parliament in 1874. Some his constituents have so little sense of humor that they are deliberating whether this will satisfy them or not. They need not deliberate. Lord Randolph, in the future as in the past, will take the liberty of thinking for himself. Not unseldom be thinks for his party also, and it is a party with which too much thinking does not always agree. But, though there may be divergences between them, neither can well do without the Lord Randolph is indispensable, more indispensable than ever with the general election M hand, and it will not be a committee of local

wirepullers in Paddington who will in the end de ermine his position in the Unionist party

New-York

Mr. Gladstone is still on the Riviera, in obedien to peremptory orders from Sir Andrew Clark. H divides his time between six-mile walks over the hills and researches into the personal history of the young lady whom he first introduced to the pious English public, Marie Bashkirtseff. Marie' mother has been imparting to her English admirer many interesting particulars of her life. These, it is understood, will presently be given to the world in those pages of "The Nineteenth Century" for which Mr. Gladstone's Olympian dissertations were finally deemed too serious. He has not yet found were four memorial services. There was a great time either to substantiate or to withdraw those procession to the cemetery. There were immense specific charges against the Duke of Devonshire which the Duke specifically denied. The obligation to do one or the other is commonly regarded in this country as an obligation of honor.

The strike of coal porters which began on Tuesday was a strike in support of the claim of trades unions of workmen to manage the business of both workmen and employers. Mersrs, Cameron had a foreman who belonged to no union. He had been in their employ four years. There was no complaint against him by the men. No objection had been made to him by the unionists till this week Then, without notice or warning, the men stopped work. As they refused to work, they were dis charged, and others were engaged. Men who, because they do not submit to the tyranny of the union, are amiably called blackless. The unionist officials demanded that the old porters should be dent knew all about Chili's submission before he replaced. This being refused, they ordered out all the oal porters in London. That puts the issue clearly as I put it above. Are employers to manage their own Queen will renew her subscription for the royal box business, or are the presidents and secretaries of trades unions to manage it for them? men who struck at Messrs. Cameron's yard had no grievance except the presence of a foreman who was not a unionist. There is no question of hours or wages-no question at all, in fact, exwhether the unionist officials were treated with trying to coerce. Perhaps that, after all, was the main question. Public sympathy was divided. Neither tyrannous trades unionism nor the coal merchants are popular. The unions cause from chants are thought to have an imperfect copy of the Commandments, and their own arithmetic is constructed on principles unknown to Cocker. But last night the 8,000 men who had been ordered into idleness to save the dignity of a union secretary were told that they might go to work The strike is understood to be over. It was found that the employers were able, or soon would be able, to get free laborers. Coalheaving is not a fine art, nor a trade which requires long apprenticeship. The police prevented that violence on which the success of such a strike depended. The employers have made no concession. They will take back such men as they have room for, but will not discharge those whom they have engaged in the interval. Messrs. Cameron and their nen are to fight out their quarrel by themselves. The Coal Porters' Union is said to be the best organized union in London. The men obeyed have gained a loss of three days' wages, and perhaps, a little wisdom.

from his wanderings was organized on a con- will last a week or more, and will include performano siderable scale by his subordinates in the Sulvaport by which the Queen of England usually enters | Pesara have resolved to purchase the cottage where nd leaves France. His "troops" went down to the sea, or nearly to the sea, in ships to meet him and excerted him safely and well up the calm produced, besides operatio representations there will be waters of the Solent. Their officers were with a water carnival them. There was the "chief of sinff" and Mrs. the "sinbat Mater" Booth, the "Commandant," Herbert Booth, and Misses Eva, Lucy and Mary Booth. There of "William Tell." Some disappointment is fell that was Mr. Commissioner Tucker, accompanied by Mrs. Booth Tucker. There were "Major" Sturges and "Major" Clibborn and "Major" Eadle. The General" made them a speech not less refined of at the Covent Garden Theatre led to a hearing in a modesa than usual. He spoke, among other things, of the Eastbourne rows which the Salvawho had been an occupant of a bex, was summered to tion Army have for a voked each Sunday. the law to give free scope to these efforts; but stand firm. That is fair notice to the authorities that Mr. Booth, like the French cardinals, or the Irish archtishops, holds himself above the law, He will obey such laws as he approves. Those of which he disapproves he will disobey. The welcome is to be continued to-day in London. You could not expect Mr. General Booth to arrive in whether it did or not, the Salvation Army would ould not expect Mr. General Booth to arrive in

England in a single day. The Times" printed on Tuesday, under the heading "An American Blusterer," a letter dated at New-York and signed "George H. Winter, late Brigadier-General Volunteers." The Blusterer wishes to inform England that a war with England would be very popular in the United States. and "would eventuate in the reduction of England to a fourth-class Power." "The Times" prints and comments on this production with glee, but it appears that George H. Winter's commission as brigadier-general was signed by Artemus Ward, No person of that name was in the service of the United States during the late war as an officer of volunteers, appointed by the President in any rank whatever, and none of that name served in the war as an officer of any New-York volunteer regiment. Can it be that Pigott's dupes have been duped again?

Mrs. Osborne has been brought up at Bow Street Police Court, duly charged with perjury and larceny and duly committed for trial. sympathy with her of which I spoke last week seems to be on the increase. The Treasurywhich means in this matter the public prosecutor is in ill odor. The authorities are openly charged with shurp practice. They are accused of allowing Mrs. Osborne to surrender for trial on one charge and then springing another on their prisoner of which she had no notice. do not think these accasitions worthy of reply, or else they have no reply. It is said that a question will be put in the House of Commons, which is one of the two known methods in this country of redressing a grievance.

Influenza has done its worst, and is departing The deaths in London last week from influenzwere only 314, the death rate falling from forty to thirty, and in Brighton descending to 23. There is moreover a general improvement in the general statistics of health all over the Kingdom.

It may be convenient for Americans having correspondence with Europe to know that a portion of the Eider's mails still remain on board. The British Posteffice maintains to the last its attitude of unconcern. It is a question whether, so far as mails via Southampton are concerned, it be not an attitude of hostility. The Britons who bear sway at St. Martin's le-Grand have no liking for German ships. Their delay in delivering the nails by these ships is systematic. Not they, but the company's agents have rescull twenty-five out of the forty bags which lay for weeks under water on this ship comfortably soaking themselice rato pulo.

Colonel Grant, who is just dead, belonged to an earlier generation of African explorers, and it is with Speke that he will always be associated. Speke's tragle fate has made his name perhaps better known; but Grant was the better man of the two, and his work in Africa had a scientific value. It remains to this day a most question whether Speke died by accident or suicide. lived on to vindicate his friend's memory. He was at war with Eurton, who had no generosity and never forgave. Indeed it was the apprehension of Burton's coming attack on him which,

it is said, had driven Spoke to his death.

stanley in days when Mr. Stanley's friends in England were none too many. He was at times a figure in London, where he had a house and went more or less into society, generally less Perhaps be was the only African explorer of renown who shook off the fascination of African travel and settled peaceably in his own country.

Spurgeon's people have buried him with great ceremony and sorrow, in which more than his people shared. The dead preacher lay in state in his Tabernacle Tuesday and Wednesday, where 60,000 persons came to say forewell to him. There crowds in the streets and at the grave. Perhaps the most notable event of all was the presence of the Bishop of Rochester at the funeral, which he brought to an end with a benediction. felt, no doubt, that not to Nonconformists only is Spurgeon's death a calamity, but to the whole

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA IN LONDON.

THE ROYAL SLASON OF MOURNING-THE ROSSINI

religious world.

CENTENARY. London, Feb. 13.-The Prince of Wales, who is arc-ent with his family at Compton Place, the Easthourne residence of the Duke of Devonshire, will again make his public appearance directly after the official period of mourning for the Duke of Clarence is ended. He will appear first at a smoking concert of the Amateurs' Orchestral Society. It is probable that the Duke of Edinburgh will lead the violins. The Prince of Wales will not, however, attend public concerts or theatrical performances for some time to come. at the opera, but other members of the royal family will occupy the box during the spring season. d Mrs. Henschel's vocal concert and Sir Charles Ralle's sixth orchestral concert have been

The production of "The Great Metropolis" which unced for Saturday last at the Princess's Theatre, had to be postponed, because it was imsible to get the elaborate scenery ready. presented on Thursday night, but the mechanical effects were still somewhat imperfect. The play appealed strongly to the taste of the pit and gallery. "Ellack Eyed Susan" at C. J. Abud's Prince Wales's Thentre is meeting with success.

At the Globe Theatre the three-act comedy (James Mortimer's) "Gloriana," though receiving a secondrate performance, has now had a run of one hundred

Sara Bernhardt recently offered to create the principal role in a new postical drama that has been accepted at the Theatre Francis in Paris, if she is specially engaged for that purpose. M. Caretie, the manager of the Comedie Française, replied that if would be impossible for him to accept her offer unless she joins the Coincide Francise for a definite period. On the last day of February the centenary of the birth of Rossini will be celebrated throughout Italy and generally on the Continent. A committee of leading usicians, including Marchetti, Terziani, Pinelti and Maldura, has been formed in Rome to carry out the arrangements. The Government has decided to mark the occasion by the publication of the composer's Toward this end a special comm sion has been allowed to search the archives of the Farts Opera and the French Ministry of Fine Arts for any interesting documents, especially if likely to throw their officers as if they had been soldiers. They any light upon the puzzle and mystery of Rossint's life

tion after the completion of "William Tell."

At Pesars, the master's birthplace, the festivities William Tell" and "L'Amico Fritz," historical con-Rossini was bern and convert it into a museum. At Venice, where many of the master's works were first and Mrs. the "sinbat Mater" is announced.

Booth, and Paris will observe the centenary by a performance

Army bave for a long time pro-ed each Sunday. He did not know, he whether the House of Commons would alter lay to give free score to these efforts; but

ALLEGED TO MAVE STOLEN 875,000 FRANCS. Paris. Feb. 13.-A sensation has been caused in the jewely trace of this city by the disappearance of a prominent jeweller who, it is alleged, stole \$75,000 frames from the cafe of the firm, of which his dead father had been a member. It is said that the jewell-r has fled to England in the company of a woman.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN GUATEMALA. Guatemala, Jan. 27.—The result of the election for President is still uncertain. The probability is that seneral Jose Maria Beynn Barrios will be declared elected. Indeed, a statement is published that he re

MR. CARNEGIE GIVES \$100,000 MORE.

ANOTHER ADDITION TO HIS PRINCELY GIFTS TO PITTSBURG FOR A LIBRARY.

Pitt-burg, Feb. 13 (Special).- Pitt-burg will eve have cause for gratitude to Andrew Camerie, who is practising what he preached in New-York last Saturday night. He has increased his magnificent gift for a free library by \$106,000. It was his intention to give the amount provided granite was used in the con-truction of the main building, but he has since deelded that that mat rind would not meet his views and his given the amount uncomitionally. This mean that the edditional sum will be expended on the in terior and exterior emblishment. James R. Scott, president of the Board of Trustees of the Birary, re-Carregie over some of the details of the matter.

negle and his pasts departed on their trip through the south and Mexico, and so met him in Philadelphia derger than ordinary spots.

MR. SERVIS SPEARS OF IT IN A LECTURE. appears to taterest him any more than to talk over the roject. He seemed very much pleased to add the \$100,000 to his gift, and the plans of the building he pronounced very handsome, as did President White, of Cyrnell, and President Charles S. Smith, of the New York Mr. Carnegie seems to favor Pompellan brick, a handsome material, much in use in the East, and though the Board has not yet chosen a material, of course all deference will be given to his

wishes.

"The \$200,000 set aside from the \$1,000,000 fund
to the branches will remain as it is, and the increase
to the branches will remain as it is, and the increase wishes.

"The \$300,000 set aside from the \$1,000,000 fund for the branches will remain as it is, and the increase for the branches will remain as it is, and the increase for the branches will remain as it is, and the increase for the construction of the Schenler Park building, for the construction of the Schenler Park building. The use of grantle would leave very little out of the \$800,000 for artiste claboration on the original plan, but the selection of Fompetian brick will leave the full amount of the addition for embelishment alone at think that everything can be arranged as that the full amount of the addition for embelishment alone in this that everything can be arranged as that the contract can be awarded in the early spring. It will take about three years to construct it, and there will be plenty of time during the last year to decide on the location of and construct the half-dazen branches, which will likely be done by a special committee, which will likely be done by a special committee, which will likely be done by a special committee are in which the people are more thickly congregated. Judging from the way Mr. Carnezie talks he has not stopped in his generosity towned Pulsaburg, and he will no doubt be heard from after the library is opened. Mr. Smith has asked the privilege of Mr. Carnezie to present the first ciff to the library in the form of a bandsome painting a marine scene, now in the Mistropolitica Museum, New York.

the Metropolitan Museum, New York."

Mr. Carnegle and Charles S. Smith, president of the Chamber of Commerce, started on Friday on a month's trip through the South and West. A son of Mr. Smith said last night that all he knew of his father's connection with the matter was that he promised Mr. Carnegle a year ago to give a painting to the library.

THE NORTHERN SKY AFLAME

MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY OF THE AURORA

BOREALIS.

THE HUDSON RIVER AS RED AS BLOOD FROM THE REFLECTED LIGHT-CONNECTION OF THE BIG SUN SPOT WITH THE

PHENOMENON.

The heavens presented a magnificent display of the aurora borealis last evening. Shortly after 7 o'clock it suddenly burst from the northern sky like long, lofty banners of fire. The dingy, dark appearance of the heavens which usually precedes its appearance had been invisible, probably owing brilliancy of the moon and the starlit skies. The columns of searlet light rose higher and higher until they almost reached the zenith, and then sank away again to mere tufts of fire. Again they spread in ribbons of laret-colored light almost across the northwestern perizon, making a sight of magnificent beauty.

Then the columns at each end of the aurora's arch disappeared, only to increase the glitter and glory of the central pillars of fire. Thus apparently strengthened, this pillar shot far toward the zen ith, looking like a large Ionic column, supporting the vault of the sky. The fluted column was as perfect and regular as any ever seen in Grecian But the vision was only momentemple. tary; the column seemed to tremble, and the ever changing aurora again assumed other Near the base of the aurora, during the entire display, which ended at 8 o'clock, a mass of greenish yellow cloud was seen stretching along over many degrees of the open heavens. LIKE A RIVER OF RED WINE.

The reflection of the crimson colors upon the waters of the North River was brilliant in the extreme. The river seemed a mass of flowing claret or a river of blood. The thousands of lights boats moving here and there the river's surface, and plainly over the river's surface, and photo-ble miles and miles away; the blood-like waters, tre ever-moving, flashing columns of fire, made a picture upon the minds of the fortunate observers which they will never forget.

At first it was feared in the city that some fire had begun its raveges and had thrown its reflection upon the skies. There was for a time some excitement in the Fire Department, and alarms were expected at every minute. But none came, and then it was supposed that the brilliant colors were due to burning buildings in New Superstitions people in the lower parts of the

city as they gazed upon the hery pillars became frightened and frankly predicted coming evil and

At the Weather Bureau on the Equitable Building reports were received saying that the aurora had been seen in various parts of the coun , but at no place probably was seen to better advantage than in the neighborhood of New-York.

PERRUARY IS A FAVORITE DAY FOR THE AURORA Although some astronomers have endeavoted to reappearance of the aurora, that does not seem to he certain at all. It has been seen at various times of the year. It is worth notific, however that the estulogue of the appearances of the February 13-as for as the records on any other day. phenomenon appeared with especial brillioney on February 13, 1575; February 13, 1821; February 13, 1822; February 13, 1865, and February 13, 1867. It is also often seen in March. The most brilliant exhibitions of the beautiful phenomeno

A TALK WITH PROFESSOR RUES Professor John K. Rees, of Columbia College iswed the phenomenon from the roof of the Dakota apartments at Seventy-second-st, and Contral Park, West, where he lives. When seen later by a Tribune reporter at the Century Club,

are said to have been seen, as a matter of cour-

in Norway and Sweden, and other northern coun-

tries. The Arctic explorers have chronicled, per

the most magnificent displays.

he said: "The aurora was one of the most beautiful I roof to watch it, for it was a sight not often per mitted to New-Yorkers. Auroras are not of fr quant occurrence in this latitude, and when they are visible are generally pale and poorly marked. The one to night was beautifully marked, and the coloring was clear and distinct. The play of the colors, too, as the formation changed, was very interesting. The aurors seemed to occupy the whole northwestern heaven, and I suppose would have been visible in the north also had not the moon been so bright in that quarter to obscure it."

"How do you account for the appearance of the aurora at this time ?"

"It probably is due to the present disturbance on the sun. Auroras come and go in cycles of eleven and one-tenth years, the same as the sun spors do and it is supposed that the two phenomena are connected in some way. The spots now visible on the sun cover a large area, and are attracting much attention from astronomers, which this splendid aurora will heighten." "Can you give The Tribune readers some par

ticulars about these present sun disturbances No, I don't care to say anything for publication just now, as I have not yet studied the phenomenon thoroughly. The spots been visible only a few days, The spots buye was not until this morning d made any observations. We made some very photographs and drawings at the college to-day, but have not enough data yet to form the basis estimated at 90,000 miles in width, and 160,000

of any descriptions. The spets cover an area to 175,000 in length. This surface is crossed and dotted with ridges and points, and marke in various ways, which give it a beautiful appearance, and make it an object of absorbing interest and delight to the astronomer. After sei-m tists have studied it a little more thoroughly, they will be able to give some explanations and theories, possibly, both of the spots and the narora. Yes, the area of disturbance is of unusual size, much

The display of the aurora horealis gave bar-rett P. Serviss, who spoke on "How Worlds are Made," at Cooper Union last night, chance to talk about a phenomenon which many of the audience had just seen for themselves. The magnetic connection between the sun and the earth was the cause, he said, of the lights in the northern sky. The recent appearance of the spots upon the sun showed that a tremendous disturbance was taking place upon the surface of that bedy. The earth had responded to the electrical impulses from the sun and its magnetic condition had actuated electrical currents in the atmosphere. He said that the principle of the aurora borealis was the same as that shown by the

Gleissler tube in which electricity is discharged through rarefied air. SOMETHING ABOUT SUN SPOTS. It has been the generally accepted theory of astronomers that sun-spots are depressions in the photosphere, or luminous envelope of the sun, produced by dewnfalls of cool material. This coo material is produced by the condensation in the upper cool regions of the sun's atmosphere of the hot ascending vapors produced at the lower levels.

fall to the photosphere and produce fresh dis-turbances. Down-rusines of cool material take place all over the sun's surface, and, although the most violent results are restricted to certain re-gions, minor disturbances are distributed over the whole surface.

Although the more important of these solar

the whole surface.

Although the more important of these solar phenomena are limited to certain zones of the sun's surface, and although they vary violently, they have a cycle or regular succession of changes, during which the particular zone of the sun on which they appear alters. When there is the smallest number of spots on the sun—that is, at the beginning of a cycle—the spots appear in high latitude, and the latitude decrease gradually until the cycle is ended. Thus there are two perfectly distinct spotted areas, one corresponding to the end of the old period and one to the beginning of the new.

The exact connection between sun spots and auroral displays, astronomers are not quite able to explain: but a series of observations taken through a long period of years show that the maxima of the aurorae coincide almost identically with Those of the sun spots.

AN EXPLANATION OF THE AURORA. The aurora is explained on one theory as an sleetric discharge netween the magnetic poles of the earth, leaving the immediate vicinity of the north magnetic pale in the form of clouds of electriffed matter, which floats southward through the atmosphere at a height of forty miles or more atmosphere at a height of forty miles or more from the earth, and sometimes to a distance of more than 30 degrees from the pole. While they are thus moving forward with a comparatively slow—and steady—motion—bright streams of electricity are from time to time suddenly shot out from them in a nearly vertical direction in magnetic curves corresponding to the points from which they originate. These curves, ascending to a great height beyond the atmosphere, and then bending southward and downward till they finally reach the corresponding points in the southern magnetic hemisphere, are the pathways by which the electrical currents pass to their destination. For hways by which the electric pass to their destination. F hundred miles these curv and illuminat several hundred miles these curves are thus traced through space and illuminated with bright electric light.

FIREMEN THOUGHT IT WAS A CONFLAGRATION. The unusual display in the sky fooled the larger part of the Fire Department in this city so after 7 p. m. Chief Bonner, Deputy Chief McCabe, several battalion chiefs and a dozen companies of firemen had been galled by three alarms to fight a fire at Broadway and Eighteenth St. They were hard at work when they noticed a red light in the northwest, which, seen through the smoke and steam looked like the glare of another big fire not many blocks away. Chief Bonner called one of his men and sent him to a fire-alarm box with instructions to telegraph to Fire Headquarters in East Sixty-seventh-st., and inquire where the last alarm had been sent from. The reply that there was no other fire in the city was a great conflagration in Hooken. As they downed the fire in Broadway, they thanked their stars that it was not miking such a show as the one they thought must have got beyond the control of the firemen across the North River. names of firemen had been called by three alarms

TROUBLE WITH TELEGRAPH WIRES. The aurora borealis caused considerable trouble mong the telegraph operators who were at work T. Quinn, that he had replied to the charge in a esterday afternoon at points extending from New-York to as far west as Chicago. At this time of the year such atmospheric disturbances, tele-graph men say, are rare, but the electricity in the air yesterday afternoon and evening caused f most as much trouble as the aurora borealis of the

as much trouble as the alroyal fall of 1882.

The aurora berealis acts the same on telegraph wires as lightning, only the former does not burn out the wires, said J. C. Robinson, general traffic chief of the New-York office of the general traffic chief of the New-York office of the general traffic chief of the New-York office of the does not burn out the wires," said J. C. Robinson, general traffic chief of the New-York office of the Western Union Company, last evening. "During these atmospheric disturbances no batteries would be necessary in telegraph stations if the electricity should remain steadily in the air. But it comes and goes in waves, and of course, when the wave is not present the battery must be used. But when the wave is passing over, the battery council be used, as it pulls the current from the wires, and it was at those times to-day that the operators were interrupted at their work. With bath aurora borealis and battery, the wires became overcharged and refused to work. If the strongth of the aurora borealis should remain as strong as the battery for a day or two it would be an easy matter to obtain certain results over the wires without the aid of the battery, but it eaunot be depended upon, as it is spasinodic in its movements. No one has yet explained the why and the wherefore of these atmospheric disturbances, but this telegraph operator can tell at once when the ausors is going to appear. The office at Bufful seemed to be the one most affected this afternati, betroit and Cheago. Several times during the evening no batteries were used when sending the evening the eve

The brilliant aurors, with admired by chore, was greatly admired by those in the fortunate enough to see it in Reoislyn. At first the observers supposed that they were looking at the blaze of a fire in New-York of New-Jersey, but the peculiar brilliancy of the appearance soon disclosed its true character. There were a dozen inquiries made at Police Head-admirers as to the place of the supposed fire, and the story was started and received some eredence that the fire in a telephone exchange in New-York caused the display, and that the peculiar flashes of color were due to the blazing of virtiol. The customary prognestication that after such a showy exhibition of the "northern lights" some excerce cold weather may be expected, was made by many observers. was greatly formulate many observers.

BLAZING OVER THE PRAIRIE STATES.

THE ATLANTIC COAST TO IOWA.

Chicago, Feb. 13 .- A gorgeous illumination of the heavens was visible to-night at cities over 1,000 miles apart. It was the most wonderful exhibition of the aurors or northern lights posdbly ever seen from American soil. Dispatches to the Associated Press show that the phenomenon stretched over a great belt of territory, from lowato the Atlantic Coast. The magnificent spectade was scientifically observed at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Astronomical Dimeter W. J. Hussey, of that institution, telegraphs the result to the Associated Press as folows; "The brilliant rose-red aurora visible tonight was not altogether unexpected. In a general way auroras have been predicted for about this time. To-night's display noturally follows the appearance of the great sunspet which has been visible lucing the last week. Other auroral displays may

during the last week. Other auroral displays may be expected in the coar future.

Other dispatcles show that the phenomenon was witnessed at Louisville, Cincanati, Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo, Detroit, Indianapolis and at Columbus, Toledo, Detroit, Indianapolis and at Hilmos and Iowa points, but not at St. Louis, Hilmos and Iowa points, but not at St. Louis, Kausas City or Mempins. At Cincinnati it was first supposed that the city of Hamilton, twenty-five miles north, was on fice.

Though not seen at St. Paul or Minneapolis, the aurora was plainly witnessed in Milwaukee. The recular disturbance known to telegraphers as an electric storm occurred. Operators working wires electric storm occurred. Operators working wires stretching north from this city, were greatly hampered, but it did not materially affect fixes cust and west.

hampered, but it am had cast and west.

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 13.—Beantiful rese-pink aurora in the west from 7 to 8 this evening led many people to suppose there was a large fire beyond the hills.

Kingston, N. Y., Feb. 13 (Special).—The display of northern lights here to night was brilliant. It began about 7 o'clock and continued through the evening.

Saratoga. Feb. 13 (Special).—A magnificent dis-play of the northern lights was observed in the northwestern heavens to-night. It was of a pink color. While the aurora borealis is frequently ob-served here in winter, there is no record here of one pink in color having ever been seen in the Adirondack region before.

ADMIRING THOUSANDS AT NYACK. Nyack, N. Y., Feb. 13 (special). Thousands of people at 8 o'clock to-night are wondering at the most

privellous display of autora ever seen here. heavens are affame from due west to northwest, with background as red as blood in some places, and in n background as red as blood in some places, and in others an exquisite pink. Through this sea of fame broad bands of vellow, blue and green dart upward like constant lightning flashes, half way to the zentth. The remainder of the sky is perfectly clear, and the entire effect of glittering skies, full moon and dazzling aurora is indescribably beautiful.

THE BRIDGE AT AYER JUNCTION REPAIRED. Ayer, Mass., Feb. 13.—The bridge crossing the Nashus River at Ayer Junction on the main line of the

FOR THE STATE CONVENTION.

THE REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS.

THE FULL COMMITTEE WILL ASSEMBLE ON FEBRUARY 29 AND WILL PROBABLY

NAME MAY 4 AS THE DATE OF

THE CONVENTION. The Republican State Executive Committee des sided yesterday that February 29 would be a suitble date for holding a meeting of the General Committee to arrange for the State Convention. Chairman Brookfield, who was present, thought so, too, and agreed to issue the official call accordingly. The time for holding the convention was also discussed in an informal way, it not being within the power of the Executive Committee to do any-

thing more than recommend a particular day. As

this recommendation, however, is almost certain to

be adopted, it is altogether likely that the conven-

tion will be held on or about May 4, that being the date generally favored by those present, These were as follows: General Husted, chairman, who presided: William Brookfield, chairman of the General Committee; Congressman Wadsworth, B. B. Odell, jr.; ex-Assemblyman L. L. Van Allen, Postmaster Van Cott's successor as representative of the VIIth Assembly District; J. E. Milhelland, proxy for John H. Camp; John W. Dwight, Israel F. Fischer, William Barnes, jr., of Albany, proxy for George Campbell; Cortlandt Manning, of Buffalo, proxy for John N. Scatcherd; Charles T. Dunwell, of Brooklyn, and F. D. Kilburn, of Malone. All parts of the State were hus represented. Verplanck Colvin, Republican candidate for State Engineer last fall, was present by invitation to discuss a plan that he had for bringing about a more efficient party organization. Other visitors included a delegation from the Americus Labor Club, They sent in word that they wanted to talk to the committee as representatives of the Blanket Ballot League. were admitted. Instead of talking about ballot reform, however, they began to ask Chairman Husted about some remarks which it was alleged that he had made in the course of a debate in the Assembly on the Anti-Pinkerton bill. This bill as introduced in the Assembly forbade the employment of men from outside a county for work such es the Pinkerton detectives perform. But the Democratic Assembly emasculated it completely on this point, iAs amended and passed, the bill leaves matters just as they General Husted opposed the measure, and some of

act of any member of the State Committee was not a subject to take up the committee's time, and the delegation filed out of the room. No other name was mentioned for permanent secretary except that of John S. Kenyon, the present secretary of the committee. A special committee consisting of Mr. Brookfield, Mr. Dwight and Mr. Dunwell was appointed to employ Mr. Kenyon, and to secure permanent headquarters for the organization at once. This will be in

the labor men took him to task for classing all

workingmen with "Socialists and Anarchists."

General Husted promptly denied the foolish charge

and told the visitors, whose spokesman was James

formal letter. It was suggested that the particular

all probability at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, Much satisfaction was expressed, in the discussion which followed about campaign work, at the result of the supervisors' elections, and the way in which the Republicans all over the State were aroused over Hill's high-handed proceedings. Absolute confidence was expressed in the ability of the party to carry the State this fall for the National ticket, and no one present seemed to doubt that the next Legislature would be safely.

doubt that the next Legislature would be safely kepublican.

May 4 was favored as the date for the State Convention for obvious reasons. The State Convention, at which four delegates at-large to Minneapolis will be chosen, must be held at least thirty days before the National Convention, which opens on June 1. May 7, however, falls on Saturday, so Wednesday was chosen, it being as near the limit us possible. In other words the Republican leaders, unlike the Hill crowd, want to give the party all the time possible to select men to choose candidates for President and Vice4 President. The Hill convention will be held Monday, the 22d six weeks at least before that of the The brilliant aurora, with its unusually ruddy day, the 22d, six weeks at least before that of the left, was greatly admired by

WHAT CAUSED THE HOTEL FIRE.

FIRE MARSHAL MITCHELL'S REPORT SAYS THE NIGHT ENGINEER STARTED IT. .

Fire Marshall James Mitcheil at noon yesterday submitted his report of the Hotel Royal fire to the Board of Fire Commissioners. It is as fol-

the fire that occurred in the Hotel Royal on the morning of the 7th inst. is closed. All those who were known or supposed to be possessed of information which might lead to the discovery of the cause or starting point of the fire have been

"The conclusions arrived at are that the fire originated in the elevator shaft at a point above the first or office floor, probably in the vicinity of the third floor, and that it was caused by a candle used by the night engineer. Herbert C. Harding, at about the hour of 11 o'clock that night, for the purpose of examining and testing the gas connections and the rubber tube connecting the el vator lamp with the surface pipe,

"In testing the latter, which was set in a groove in one corner of the shaft, the flame of the candle, as I am informed, was run along the tube. It was in this way, in my opinion, that one of two things happened, resulting in the isastrous configration; either a small leak of was was ignited, escaping detection by the engine r, or the flame of the candle was brought into contact with some of the dry fibre of the wood, or with an accumulation of fluff and dust in the groove, leaving a spark which in time was famed into a flame by the draft passing up the

shaft. "There is no doubt whatever, from the statements made is the engineer and one Andreas Deeppler, that the fire was burning fiercely on the upper floors before it made any appearance in

the lower floor. "JAMES MITCHELL, Fire Marshal.

IS HE ONE OF THE UNIDENTIFIED DEAD! Charles Mesher, an engineer on the West Shore Rails ad, has been missing from his home in North Bergen, N. J., since February 5, and it is believed by some of his friends that he perished in the Hotel Royal fird. Mrs. Mosher went to the Morgoe, but failed to identify any of the hodies as that of her husband. Mosher told his wife when he left his home that he would not make his run that day. He was so n at the Guttenburg rac-track that afternoon, and again in New-York on Satur-day. He drew his pay on Erday, but did not go out on his train. The police of adjoining cities have been notified. Mrs. Moster believes her husband will re-

HUSBAND AND WIFE COMMIT SUICIDE.

Louisville, Feb. 13 (special).—Elvis Pardue and MS rife were found dead in their house at Portland, Tenn., this morning. They had committed suicide. killed himself first, as the tazor with which they had ended their fives was lying near the woman. A note was found, written by the woman, saying that they had no friends and that, as her husband had decided to kill himself, she would also take her life, rather than live without him.

MUCH LINGATION AT AN END.

Lockport, N. Y., Feb. 13 (Special),-John F. Quigley, president of the Cliff Paper Company, of Ningara Falls, is sold out his stock to the amount of \$95,000 to Arthur and Jacob Schoellkopf, the owners of the Ningara Falls Hydraulic Race Company, and by so doing ends thirty-two lawsuits that he had on hands, and one for \$150,000 he had against the Over eight years ago Quigley contracted with the Hydraulic Race Company to furnish him 1,000 horse-power for his mills, and the causi com-Fitchburg road, where the recent freight accident rent and sued for damages. The schoolkopts brough the each pany was unable to do so. Origin refused to pay rent and sued for damages. The schoolkopts brough rent and sued for damages. The schoolkopts brough rential through without transfer.